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Hello, my name is Timeasha Gamble and I am a high school student at Achievement First Hartford High.

I am here to oppose Senate Bill 1096, and tell you about how much public charter schools can help students in Hartford. We need you to do everything you can to support high-performing charter schools.

Let me start by saying, I love my school. I am getting a good education. My teachers challenge me academically, help me understand difficult subject matter, and are pushing me to go to a four-year college.

I have made so much progress. I've brought up my grades and I stay away from things I know will get me in trouble. My school has given me a better chance at success in life.

You see, I never cared about school or thought much about my future before I came to this school. But now I care so much. I want to go to college and become a doctor.

My school, a charter school, has helped me believe that this future is possible.

We need more great charter schools, and we shouldn't stop new ones from opening. Please support the creation of more public charter schools, because they help kids like me get a great education.